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SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE MARCH 4, 2016

DO

FR-4915-01-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 1011 (Sub-No. 2X)]

Northern Lines Railway, LLC—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Stearns County, Minn.

Northern Lines Railway, LLC (NLR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over an approximately 0.45-mile rail line owned by BNSF Railway Company, between milepost 80.66 and milepost 81.11 in St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minn. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 56374.

NLR has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) overhead traffic on the Line, if any, can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending either with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of service shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham &

Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will be effective on April 8, 2016, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2)¹ must be filed by March 21, 2016.² Petitions to reopen must be filed by March 29, 2016, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to NLR's representative: Rose-Michele Nardi, Transport Counsel PC, 1701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

¹ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

² Because this is a discontinue proceeding and not an abandonment, interim trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be an environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require an environmental review.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: March 4, 2016.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.